

Louise Dean
DEI Project Lead

Rich Sanders
State Lead Disability Resource Coordinator

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE UPDATE – 10/1/2011

Staff Training

- ◆ 16 local Disability Resource Coordinators
 - ◆ 9 “Level I”
 - ◆ 7 “Level II”
- ◆ Training Components
 - ◆ Disability Awareness
 - ◆ Serving employment seekers with disabilities
 - ◆ Customized Employment & Self Employment
 - ◆ Asset Building
 - ◆ Coordination & Collaboration / Blending & Braiding Funds
 - ◆ Integrated Resource Teams
- ◆ New round of One Stop staff start training in October
 - ◆ 18 Staff (17 “Level I” & 2 “Level II”)
- ◆ Implementing web based training format (Adobe Connect)

Two Levels of Disability Resource Coordinators

◆ Level I

- ◆ Disability awareness and best practices
- ◆ Participate in webinar training in all 5 service components of the DEI grant
- ◆ Review and add disability links and resources to their web browser for immediate access
- ◆ Participate in accessibility reviews in their job center
- ◆ Follow up all training and reviews of materials with feedback and discussion with State Lead DRC (40 total hours of training)

Two Levels of Disability Resource Coordinators

◆ Level II

- ◆ All requirements of Level I DRC's
- ◆ Serve as regional leads and assist State Lead DRC
- ◆ More extensive and ongoing training in all grant service components (80 + hours)
- ◆ Provide direct case management services to Ticket to Work customers as deemed appropriate
- ◆ Written into existing job descriptions by end of grant

One Stop Employment Networks

- ◆ Juneau site open as Employment Network on October 1
- ◆ Marketing begins (beneficiary CD received) in October
- ◆ WISE event in Juneau in November
- ◆ Staff at Juneau trained to serve TTW customers
- ◆ Posters with brochures going to all One Stops (Ticket to Work and Medicaid Buy-In)
- ◆ Goal: Serving 200 customers statewide by October 2013

Asset Building

- ◆ State Asset Development Summit held in July
 - ◆ Follow up state coalition to meet in November
 - ◆ IDA Accounts
 - ◆ Policy and upcoming Legislative session
- ◆ Anchorage Financial Partnership Network
 - ◆ Held “Financial Fitness Day” in September
 - ◆ Developed common assessment tool
 - ◆ Planning for 2012 Tax Season
 - ◆ New “Super Saturday” sites (Fairbanks, Juneau, MatSu)
- ◆ Partnerships with financial institutions to do financial literacy in One Stops
- ◆ Real Economic Impact Tour 2011 “City of the Year” award to Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education (DEI Grant activities included)

Customized Employment & Self Employment

- ◆ Training on Discovery and Customized Employment to Level II Disability Resource Coordinators in Q4 of 2011 and Q1 of 2012
- ◆ Employment for All 10 part training to be used in remainder of grant for new staff and on as needed basis for Employment Network Coordinators in years 2 and 3 (Anchorage, Fairbanks, MatSu)
- ◆ Goal: 20 staff certified in providing Customized Employment Services (Level II and Employment Network Coordinators)

One Stop Physical and Programmatic Accessibility

- ◆ Reviews completed at all sites (physical, assistive technologies) by end of November (Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue)
- ◆ Results
 - ◆ Most corrections are related to:
 - ◆ Parking spaces / access to building
 - ◆ Signage
 - ◆ Restroom (door handles, location of dispensers, signage)
- ◆ Meeting with State ADA Coordinator in November to coordinate corrections

Programmatic Accessibility

- ◆ Reviews to be done last quarter of 2011
- ◆ Accessible materials (e-formats) on website
- ◆ All classrooms and materials made in electronic and accessible formats
- ◆ Privacy workstations when needed
- ◆ Website upgrades (text to speech)

Collaboration

- ◆ Job Center Services Integration Committee
- ◆ Local employment and service provider coalitions spearheaded by trained DRC's
- ◆ Statewide "Hands Up" Asset Building Coalition
- ◆ Alaska Workforce Investment Board
- ◆ Anchorage Financial Partnership Network

Some Disability Data...

- ◆ ALEXsys Data:
 - ◆ 1,905 active users indicate they have a disability
 - ◆ 338 indicate they receive SSDI
 - ◆ 235 indicate they receive SSI
 - ◆ 124 indicate they receive both SSI and SSDI
- ◆ There are over 22,000 working age (18 to 65) beneficiaries residing in Alaska (2010 census)
- ◆ DVR Closures as “Rehabilitated” (Employed)
 - ◆ FY 2008 – 2010: 290 workers
 - ◆ SSDI : 119
 - ◆ SSI: 171

Alaska Data Collection

Alaska DEI Data Elements	
First Name	
Last Name	
Date of Birth	
Email address	
Are you currently a Ticket to Work participant?	Customer will be given options of Yes, No, Don't Know
Have you ever received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)?	Only customers who answer 'no' to 'Currently Receiving SSDI?' in ALEXsys
Which of the following things do you think will make it hard for you to get a job?	Check all that apply: Limited education or training, Limited work history/experience, No child care, Substance use, Limited transportation, Language barrier, Ex-Offender, Housing/homeless, Disability
When did you begin employment at your most recent job?	mm/yyyy
What is your most recent job title?	Open field
What is your most recent hourly wage?	Open field
In your most recent job, how many hours a week did you work?	Open field
Did your most recent employer provide you with...	Check all that apply: Health insurance, Vacation, Sick leave, Flexible hours, Working from home, Customized employment, Job sharing, None of the above.

DEI Main Research Questions:

- ◆ What start-up issues were identified? How were these issues resolved?
- ◆ What are the impacts of the DEI grants on participation and employment outcomes?
- ◆ What services and strategies appear to be most successful?
- ◆ What are the challenges that need to be addressed to improve employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities?
- ◆ What systems changes need to be made to overcome these challenges?
- ◆ What best practices have the demonstration projects identified that address these system changes?

How DRC's collect data:

- ◆ Weekly reports with **outcomes** in each section
 - ◆ Information and referral
 - ◆ Integrated Resource Teams
 - ◆ Physical access accommodations
 - ◆ Programmatic accommodations
 - ◆ Asset building activities
 - ◆ Collaboration and coordination
- ◆ Contact made with State Lead DRC upon completion of training in each grant component to ensure understanding and possible implementation activities at the local level

Outcomes from Year 1

- ◆ Accessibility Reviews conducted at 16 One-Stops
- ◆ 16 staff trained to be DRC's
- ◆ Employment Network established in Juneau
- ◆ All staff have a Disability Resource website to use
- ◆ All staff have received Disability Awareness training
- ◆ New financial literacy partnerships and programs initiated at One Stops
- ◆ Statewide Asset Building Summit leading to state "Hands Up" Asset Building Coalition
- ◆ New Ticket to Work website for Alaska
- ◆ DRC's are effectively serving customers with disabilities (weekly reports and follow up by State Lead DRC)

Upcoming activities:

- ◆ Training new round of DRC's
- ◆ All staff training (webcast) on:
 - ◆ Ticket to Work (Alaska specific)
 - ◆ Serving job seekers with behavioral health disabilities
- ◆ Marketing Ticket to Work and building new Employment Networks (WISE event in November – Juneau)
- ◆ Unveiling DEI Public Website
- ◆ Job Center Services Integration Committee meeting – Topic: Effective Partnerships
- ◆ Expansion of Asset Building activities
 - ◆ Local Coalitions
 - ◆ Free “Super Saturday” tax events
 - ◆ Financial Literacy workshops and training in One Stops
- ◆ Customized Employment Training for DRC II's and partners
- ◆ Meet with State ADA Coordinator to address accessibility issues

DEI Goals:

- ◆ Job seekers with disabilities use the one stops with no physical or programmatic barriers
- ◆ Job seekers find access to all disability related resources and services through the one stops
- ◆ All staff within the one stops are highly trained in serving customers with disabilities
- ◆ Job seekers receiving SSI or SSDI use the one stop employment networks to obtain and maintain employment through initial and long term supports
- ◆ Alaska serves as a “model” state in serving customers with disabilities effectively through staff expertise, employment networks and partnerships and collaboration with local service providers